Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) and Dy. Director of the National Institute of Nutrition, indicating also whether Director, CSIR and Additional Inspector General of Forests (Wild life) have been consulted by the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to control and regulate experiments on animals in keeping with the relevant provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960.

(b) and (c) A Sub-Committee consisting of scientists and representatives of animals welfare organisations was constituted to consider the comments and suggestions on the draft Breeding of and Experiments on Animals (Control and Supervision) Rules 1998. The Sub-Committee after examining the suggestions received in this regard from different quarters including the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) and the National Institute of Nutrition has suggested modifications in the draft Rules so as to simplify registration procedures and decentralize various control mechanisms proposed in the draft rules. The recommendations of the Sub-Committee have since been considered and accepted by the Committee for Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals which has 17 members including scientists, representatives from animal welfare organisations and the Additional Inspector General of Forests (Wild Life).

Stipends to SC/ST Students

2424. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to support the students of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the form of stipends;

(b) if so, what amount has been sanctioned during the three years, State-wise;

(c) whether Government have any plan to sanction money for building hostels for students of Scheduled Castes and Tribes; and

(d) if so, what amount has been sanctioned and the number of hostel buildings built including capacities of hostels in last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Statement enclosed at Annexure—[*See* Appendix 185, Annexure 59]

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Statement enclosed at Annexure—[*See* Appendix 185, Annexure 59]

Representation against regulating research on Animals

2425. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from scientists against regulating research on animals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to reconsider its decision to impose drastic checks on research on animals;

(d) if so, the details of the decision Government propose to take in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI):

(a) to (e) The Government has received a number of representations containing comments and suggestions on the draft Breeding of and Experiments an Animals (Control and Super-